



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

## U.S. Extends Condolences for Victims of Ethiopian Airlines Crash

By Charles W. Corey  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — On behalf of the American people, the United States extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and loved ones of those lost aboard Ethiopian Airlines Flight 409, which crashed after takeoff from Beirut, assistant secretary of state for public affairs Philip J. Crowley announced January 25. In a written statement, Crowley said

the United States government has been in contact with the Lebanese and Ethiopian governments to offer assistance. "Per the request of Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ad Hariri, we are providing U.S. assistance in the search, rescue, and recovery efforts," he said. "The U.S. will continue to do all it can to support the people of Lebanon and Ethiopia in the face of this tragedy," he pledged.

The plane that crashed, Ethiopian Airlines Flight 409, crashed into the Mediterranean Sea minutes after taking off from Beirut International Airport en route to the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The Boeing 737-800 was reported to have eight crew members and 82 passengers aboard.

Full text of the Condolences: — On behalf of the American people, the

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## Under Secretary Otero to Visit East Africa

**Washington** — U.S. Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs María Otero travels to East Africa January 25–February 1 to engage with governments and civil society on an array of global issues related to human security — from political and economic security to water, health and environmental security.

Otero will begin her trip in Kenya January 26–28 to



*U.S. Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs María Otero.*

visit refugee camps in the Dadaab region near the Somali border, according to a U.S. Department of State announcement. She also will meet with government leaders and civil society groups addressing human rights, human trafficking and the environment. On January 28, she will hold a town hall meeting on youth and technology at Kenya Polytechnic University. From Kenya, Otero will travel to Kampala, Uganda, on

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## Assistant Secretary Carson to Visit Spain and Africa

Washington — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson is traveling to Spain, Ethiopia, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria from January 26 to February 10, the U.S. Department of State has announced.

A statement issued January 26 says Assistant Secretary Carson will begin his travel in Madrid, Spain, where he has meetings scheduled with counterparts from the European Union. Spain holds the presidency of the EU. Carson will go to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for the African Union Summit. The U.S. delegation is being led by Under Secretary María Otero. In addition



*U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson.*

the business community, and deliver

to the summit activities, the U.S. delegation will have a number of bilateral discussions with African leadership. Following the summit, Carson will travel to West Africa, beginning in Ghana, where he will confer with President John Evans Atta Mills, meet with representatives of

remarks at a regional U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) conference in Accra. In Togo, he is scheduled to meet with President Faure Gnassingbé, Prime Minister Gilbert Houngbo, and Foreign Minister Kofi Esaw. Similarly, he has meetings in Benin planned with President Thomas Yayi Boni and Foreign Minister Jean-Marie Ehouzou.

During his trip to Nigeria, Carson will visit Lagos and Abuja. In Lagos he will meet with members of civil society and representatives of the state government. Bilateral meetings with Vice President Goodluck Jonathan and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ojo Maduekwe will highlight the Abuja portion of the trip. ♦

## U.S. Extends Condolences for Victims of Ethiopian Airlines Crash . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

Embassy of the United States of America expresses our deepest condolences to the Ethiopian people on the tragic crash of Ethiopian Airlines flight 409 this morning.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of those who were in this terrible accident. Ethiopian Airlines is a demonstrated leader in safe and reliable civil aviation in Africa and internationally.

The Embassy and Government of the United States stand prepared to assist Ethiopian Airlines and Ethiopian and Lebanese officials to support the investigation into this tragedy. ♦

## Under Secretary Otero to Visit East Africa . . .

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January 28, where she will hold bilateral meetings and participate in a roundtable discussion with human rights activists.

Otero's East Africa trip will culminate with participation in the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa. She will lead the U.S. delegation, meeting with senior officials from across the continent and holding roundtable discussions with women entrepreneurs, democracy organiza-

tions and water experts. The U.S. delegation includes Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson, Special Envoy to Sudan Scott Gration, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Acting Administrator for Africa Earl Gast, Ambassador of the United States Mission to the African Union Michael Battle, and other key White House and interagency officials. As undersecretary for democracy and global affairs, Otero oversees the bureaus of Population,

Refugee and Migration; Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; and Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. She also oversees the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and serves as the special coordinator for Tibetan issues.

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## Republican Party Gains One Seat in U.S. Senate



*Republican Scott Brown, at lectern surrounded by supporters, celebrates his election to the U.S. Senate.*

**Washington** — The seat in the U.S. Senate held for 46 years by the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy will now pass into Republican hands as the result of a January 19 special election.

Massachusetts voters selected Republican Scott Brown to fulfill the remaining years of Kennedy's term, through 2012. Brown defeated the Democratic candidate, Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley, in a race that many political pundits see as a referendum on President Obama's push for health care reform.

Brown's swearing in as a U.S. senator will deprive Democrats of the hard-won, 60-vote majority they achieved in the 111th Congress when Democrat Al Franken was declared the winner ( [\[www.america.gov/st/usg-english/2009/July/20090701165730HMnietsuA0.289776.html\]\(http://www.america.gov/st/usg-english/2009/July/20090701165730HMnietsuA0.289776.html\) \) of a Minnesota Senate race in June 2009, nearly eight months after ballots were cast in the general election.](http://</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Holding 60 seats is important because Senate rules require 60 votes to end a filibuster — a parliamentary procedure that allows senators to continue a debate indefinitely and block or delay a vote on a measure or nomination. In 2008, prominent Democrats campaigning in U.S. Senate races across the country reminded voters of their party's goal to reach the "magic number 60."

Filibusters have been employed effectively throughout U.S. history. It was a tactic frequently used by Southern senators seeking to block

civil rights legislation in the 1960s. More recently, filibusters were used a record number of times in the 110th Congress, effectively preventing the Senate from holding votes on certain issues.

The term filibuster, coined from the Dutch word for pirate, came into use in the 1850s. But the practice of filibustering to keep the legislative body from voting on a bill predates this term. In 1917, senators adopted a rule allowing debate to end with a two-thirds majority vote. This device, called "cloture," can halt filibusters, but it was used rarely because it was so difficult to gain the support of that many senators. In 1975,

the Senate reduced the number of votes needed for cloture to three-fifths (60).

Brown's election is not a death knell for Obama's legislative agenda, any more than the 60-vote Democratic majority in the Senate was a guarantee that all his initiatives would be passed by Congress. Even with 60 senators, a political party cannot always prevent filibusters, and filibusters always can be broken when enough senators wish to vote on a particular measure. Like any group of American legislators, U.S. senators hold a wide range of political views, and rarely vote as a block on any issue, regardless of party affiliation.

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## Clinton to Attend Yemen Security Conference in London

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Supporting Yemen as it faces security challenges posed by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is a significant part of the U.S. strategy with Yemen's leaders, but there are also efforts to help with economic, governance and social issues, says the State Department's senior counterterrorism official.

A Yemen security conference, chaired by British Foreign Minister David Miliband, is being held January 27 in London, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will join 20 other world leaders to discuss political and economic issues that face the country, says Daniel Benjamin, the U.S. counterterrorism coordinator.

The British Foreign Office said in London January 26 that the short conference will focus on "how to assist the Yemen government to improve security, root out al-Qaida and promote economic and social development." The meeting was called following the failed Christmas Day 2009 terror attack by a Nigerian man on a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam that was about to land in Detroit.

"I should say that we are very pleased by the strong stance that [Yemeni] President [Ali Abdullah] Saleh and his government have taken in terms of confronting al-Qaida," Benjamin said at a January 25 briefing.

"It may appear on the surface to be a suddenly new involvement in things Yemeni for the United States, but in fact this administra-



*Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.*

tion has been engaged on Yemen really since the very beginning," Benjamin added.

While helping Yemeni authorities increase their ability to address security threats, it is also vitally important to help Yemen through long-term engagement to deal with the other issues it faces, he said. Yemen has substantial economic issues, including the depletion of natural resources, demographic challenges, a depleting water table, and issues of governance, Benjamin said.

The United States has a three-year, \$121 million economic assistance program with Yemen, and sepa-

ately is providing \$70 million in military assistance. Yemen's foreign minister, Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, was in Washington January 21 for consultations with Clinton in advance of the security summit in London.

### AL-QAIDA IN YEMEN

Benjamin said Yemen has struggled with terrorists for some time, even though the al-Qaida term hasn't been used until recently. The first known attack inspired by Saudi-born Osama bin Laden took place in December 1992 at a hotel in Aden where U.S. troops were staying.

In October 2000, the Navy destroyer USS Cole was attacked by a suicide bomber while the ship was in the Yemeni port of Aden, killing 17 U.S. sailors in addition to two terrorists.

A federal indictment issued in Michigan January 6 alleges that 23-year-old Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab of Nigeria attempted to detonate a makeshift bomb on a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit on December 25, 2009. Abdulmutallab, who claimed he was trained by al-Qaida in Yemen, was arrested by federal agents after the airplane with 289 passengers and crew aboard landed safely at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

After the attempted attack, bin Laden, the leader of the transnational terrorist group al-Qaida, purportedly issued an audio tape taking credit for the failed attack, and warning that more attacks would be coming. Benjamin said, however, that "He's ... associating himself with it and ... trying to get some of the reflected ... glory of the moment, if you can call it that."

Benjamin indicated it was unclear if Bin Laden was actually responsible: "Bin Laden has been trying to put his fingerprints on just about everything that's happened for years.

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## U.S. to Have Strong Civilian Presence in Afghanistan, Pakistan

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

**Washington** – The United States will maintain a strong civilian presence in Afghanistan and Pakistan long after military forces are withdrawn from the region, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says.

“While our military mission in Afghanistan is not open-ended, we are committed to building lasting partnerships with Afghanistan and Pakistan,” Clinton said January 21 with the release of a new Afghanistan and Pakistan Regional Stabilization Strategy ( <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/135728.pdf> ) (PDF, 570KB).

The new strategy, which stems from President Obama’s objectives announced in a speech at West Point on December 1, said the core U.S. goal remains to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaida and eliminate its safe havens in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Obama also announced that he was sending an additional 30,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan to bolster the efforts of the 68,000 already there, and NATO allies also announced plans to add forces.

In addition, Obama said the United States could begin the withdrawal of military forces in Afghanistan in 2011 if conditions in the country improve to the extent that the additional security can be provided by a revitalized Afghan army and police forces. To support the increase in forces, Obama is expected to request an additional \$33 billion in emergency war funds from Congress when the fiscal year 2011 federal budget is sent to Congress



*Secretary Clinton, left, held talks in Kabul recently with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.*

in early February.

While Clinton acknowledged that the challenges in both nations are immense, she said this strategy is shaped politically, economically and diplomatically by those realities.

“Far from an exercise in ‘nation building,’ the programs detailed here aim to achieve realistic progress in critical areas,” she added in a prepared statement that accompanied the release of the new strategy.

### AFGHANISTAN FOCUS

In Afghanistan, the focus of the U.S. strategy is to build the ability of Afghan institutions – its national and local governments’ ministries and agencies – to diminish the threat posed by the Taliban insurgents and to deliver economic assistance, especially in the farm sector – which would create jobs, reduce the funding the Taliban receives from illicit poppy cultivation, and draw insurgents off the battlefield, according to the strategy.

“We are focusing our support at the national level on Afghan ministries that can have the most direct impact on service delivery,” the strategy says.

The strategy is directed toward reconstruction and development, improving government, enhancing the rule of law, reintegration of former insurgents who renounce violence, regional diplomacy and communications.

“Aligned with our national security objectives, civilian assistance will help build Afghan capacity in key areas and also reassure Afghans that our commitment is long-term,” the strategy says. “Our civilian effort must be sustained beyond our combat mission so that Afghanistan does not become a failed state and safe haven for al-Qaida.” The strategy, which was prepared by the Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ambassador Richard Hol-

*(Continued on page 16)*

## United States Helps Recapitalize Haitian Microfinance Bank

By Katherine Lewis  
Special Correspondent

**Washington** — The U.S. government has facilitated recapitalization of Fonkoze, the largest microfinance institution in Haiti, in a mission that required close cooperation of the U.S. military, the United Nations and multiple U.S. government agencies.

In the wake of the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12, Fonkoze was the only bank able to stay open for customers making withdrawals and receiving money transfers. While goods were available for purchase in Port-au-Prince and other locations, many people had no money and commercial bank automatic teller machines were not functioning, according to news reports.

As Fonkoze grew short of cash, its chief executive, Anne Hastings, developed a plan to retrieve \$2 million in reserves from City National Bank of New Jersey (CNB) and distribute the cash to the 34 Fonkoze branches still operational in Haiti. The plan would require tight logistics and a military escort.

"We got an urgent request for help" on Friday morning [January 22], said Jennifer Harris, a member of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's policy planning staff. Fonkoze wanted to withdraw the cash that day, before the banking window closed at 5 p.m.

The mission was approved at 4:52 p.m. on Friday, with consent from

officials from the U.S. military, the United Nations and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and with advice from the Federal Reserve, Harris said. By 5:17 p.m., funds had been transferred from CNB to JP Morgan Chase in Miami, divided into 34 packets of cash and placed in office supply boxes to camouflage the contents.

While \$2 million may not seem like much, Fonkoze's distribution network is unmatched in reaching into the population of Haiti, especially the poor and underserved, Harris said. Fonkoze serves more than 55,000 women borrowers, more than 175,000 savers and 1 million families who receive remittances from relatives and friends abroad.

"Fonkoze is essentially the way in which Haiti's most vulnerable populations get cash," Harris said. "They have a reach in that population that it would take years to recreate if they went under. As a priority of stabilizing the banking sector, Fonkoze matters as much, if not more than recapitalizing the Citibanks and Sogebanks."

Traditional commercial banks have begun to reopen in Port-au-Prince, and at least one was limiting withdrawals in order to

have enough cash for the long lines of customers, according to news reports. The earthquake killed at least 111,400 people and displaced 1 million, according to a fact sheet from USAID, which has been distributing blankets, kitchen sets, water purification tablets, fuel and other relief supplies. Food prices outside Port-au-Prince have doubled.

Harris expressed gratitude for the efficient military response to Fonkoze's request for help. "They jumped in, and it was amazing to see them turn this around on absolutely zero formal notice," she said.

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*In a makeshift bank set up in the courtyard of a damaged branch, Fonkoze staff distribute money to customers.*

An armored truck took the boxes to Homestead Air Force Base in Miami, where a C-17 military aircraft picked them up and took them to Haiti overnight, for distribution by military helicopter on Saturday morning.

"We are indebted to many individuals and government agencies that helped make this happen," Fonkoze President John Mercier said in a statement on the Fonkoze Web site. Mercier mentioned "unprecedented cooperation from civilian government, the military and civil society, including Fonkoze — toward the end of ensuring that rural Haitians have access to their own resources so they could begin the process of rebuilding their country."



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## U.S. Professional Sports Leagues Reach Out to Help Haiti

**By Bridget Hunter**  
**Staff Writer**

**Washington** — In the United States, most professional sporting events start with a salute to the American flag, and the January 24 American Football Conference (AFC) championship game was no exception. But it closed with a salute to a different banner when one of the game's star athletes unfurled the flag of Haiti as his team received the victor's trophy.

Pierre Garcon, wide receiver for the Indianapolis Colts, had 11 catches — including one for a touchdown — in what was likely the most important game thus far in his professional sports career, but the recent devastation in Haiti, where his family originates, never was far from his mind.

In a shower of confetti at game's end, Garcon waved Haiti's flag in front of thousands of fans in the stadium and millions more in the television audience.

"It's just bringing awareness," he said. "What is going on over there is very tough and no one should have to go through that, especially with people who are already less fortunate. I'm just trying to bring awareness and support."

Garcon and the Colts will play February 7 in Super Bowl XLIV — the National Football League (NFL) annual championship game — against the New Orleans Saints and Jonathan Vilma, another player with a very personal connection to Haiti.

Vilma, a linebacker, was born in the United States, but both his parents immigrated to the United States

from Haiti in the 1970s and many members of his extended family still reside in Haiti.

Vilma has created a T-shirt to celebrate his team's success and raise money for earthquake victims in Haiti. The black shirt bears the phrase "Department of Homeland Defense" over a design of crossed axes and a sharply pointed gold fleur-de-lis holding a pair of skulls.

"I want to make sure [money] goes to where the help really needs to be," Vilma said in advance of the AFC championship game. "So after this game I'm really going to take some time to understand where I can help and do whatever I can."

The NFL and the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) have pledged \$2.5 million for relief and recovery efforts in Haiti. The groups promised to contribute \$1 million through their Disaster Relief Fund to the American Red Cross and Partners In Health. In addition, the NFL and its television network partners aired pregame and in-game messages (valued at \$1.5 million) during the conference championship games to promote donations.

### PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL

The National Basketball Association (NBA) and National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) announced January 15 that they will contribute \$1 million to support relief efforts in Haiti. They said they plan to partner with UNICEF and other relief agencies to provide emergency aid to the estimated 3 million people affected by the earthquake.

Retired Miami Heat star Alonzo Mourning and current player Dwy-

ane Wade organized the "Athletes Relief Fund for Haiti" to encourage athletes to help Haiti earthquake victims. The funds that Mourning and Wade raise will go to Project Medishare.

On January 15, Mourning flew to Haiti, where he assisted medical personnel in a makeshift hospital.

"It's been a humbling experience. I walk through here with extreme concern and a heavy heart because you've got all these people around you who are suffering," Mourning said. "It's extreme devastation here."

Mourning announced January 18 the response to the fund was already "overwhelming," with total pledges surpassing \$800,000. Wade pledged his one-game salary, about \$175,000, while Mourning, and NBA stars LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Chris Paul each pledged \$100,000, according to fund officials.

### BASEBALL AND HOCKEY

Major League Baseball (MLB), its clubs, its players and its fans also are supporting relief efforts in Haiti in the wake of the January 12 earthquake, which took an estimated 150,000 lives and left more than a million homeless.

Noting that "more than half of Haiti's population is under the age of 21," MLB Commissioner Bud Selig announced January 14 that MLB has pledged \$1 million to UNICEF to help it provide clean water, sanitation, medical supplies and temporary shelter.

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## U.S. Professional Sports Leagues Reach Out to Help Haiti . . .

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The contribution, an extension of MLB's "Going Beyond" efforts, was made on behalf of the MLB and its 30 clubs. Individual teams and players are supplementing the league's action with efforts of their own:

The San Francisco Giants raised \$19,650 in an online auction for the opportunity to participate in three team-related events.

The San Diego Padres donated \$25,000 to UNICEF and announced its Dominican Republic Baseball Park's staff is collecting bottled water, canned food and medicine for Haiti.

Detroit Tigers player Magglio Ordonez donated \$100,000 to the American Red Cross, while teammate Miguel Cabrera donated \$90,000 to Project Medishare for Haiti Inc.

In addition, the National Hockey League (NHL), despite a dearth of direct connections to Haiti, is supporting that devastated nation with a \$100,000 donation to UNICEF.

"The catastrophe in Haiti requires an urgent response from the National Hockey League family," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said January 14. "The victims need food, water, temporary housing and basic medical supplies, and the emergency effort by UNICEF is helping to provide those critical commodities to communities in desperate need."

The players unions of the NFL, NBA, MLB and NHL have joined together to create the "One Team 4 Haiti" campaign to support the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund's focus on the country's earthquake relief and recovery efforts.

The campaign launched with a text-message fundraising effort that asks U.S. supporters to text the word "TEAM" to 20222 to donate \$10. Canadian supporters can text the word "TEAM" to 20222 to donate \$5. The amount will be charged to the donor's cell phone bill and go directly to relief efforts.

"We are looking forward to joining forces with our peers ... to help raise awareness and funds for Haiti, and we encourage others to support the country's recovery efforts any way they can," said MLB Players Association representative Mark Loretta. "Please support our One Team 4 Haiti campaign and help us do our part to restore hope in the hearts and minds of all Haitians."

Help save lives in Haiti: Visit the White House Web site for options ( [http://www.whitehouse.gov/haitiearthquake\\_embed](http://www.whitehouse.gov/haitiearthquake_embed) ). The International Committee of the Red Cross provides a service to help people find loved ones ( <http://www.icrc.org/web/doc/siterf10.nsf/htmlall/familylinks-haiti-eng> ), and the State Department has a Person Finder ( <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/ha/earthquake/index.htm> ) where people can post information about persons missing in Haiti.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

## Clinton to Attend Yemen Security Conference in London . . .

*(Continued from page 4)*

And in that regard, I think ... we're kind of used to it."

Benjamin said one of the problems in fighting terrorism is that terrorists usually do not defend a lot of territory and remain quite mobile.

"Part of the reason that AQAP [al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula] has become a more potent threat in

recent years is that Saudi Arabia did such a superb job in ramping up its counterterrorism efforts in the wake of the May 2003 attacks there, and as a result, really, al-Qaida within Saudi Arabia was put out of business for quite a while," Benjamin said.

"But a number of the most dangerous operatives did move from Saudi Arabia to Yemen and sort of

swelled the ranks of the AQAP core there," he said.

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## Muslim-American Aid Groups Continue Haitian Disaster Relief

**By M. Scott Bortot**  
**Staff Writer**

**Washington** — Two weeks after the January 12 earthquake devastated Port-au-Prince and nearby areas, the Muslim-American aid organizations Islamic Relief USA and Zakat Foundation continue to transport and distribute supplies to Haiti's earthquake victims.

To improve their response to the tragedy, both organizations are utilizing partnerships with others dedicated to providing humanitarian relief.

"Islamic Relief USA and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have partnered to ship 160,000 pounds of much-needed aid to Haiti," said a statement on Islamic Relief USA's Web site. "The shipment includes medical equipment, blankets, first-aid kits, water-filtration bottles, wheelchairs and other much-needed aid."

This is not the first time Islamic Relief USA and the Mormon Church have partnered for humanitarian reasons. The organizations worked together to deliver tons of food and medical supplies to tsunami-stricken Indonesia in 2004 and again partnered in 2009 to send aid to the Samoan Islands region after another tsunami disaster.

For the Zakat Foundation, its Haitian earthquake relief efforts mark the beginning of new partnerships for the group. Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA) doctors, including IMANA Relief

Committee chair Dr. Ismail Mehr, are in Haiti working with Zakat Foundation staff.

"This marks the beginning of cooperation between our two organizations to attend to the critical health care needs of earthquake survivors," said a statement on the Zakat Foundation Web site. In addition to the new IMANA partnership, the Zakat Foundation is also teaming with local Muslims for relief efforts.

As of this writing, Zakat Foundation Executive Director Khalil Demir continues to work in Haiti, coordinating food and water shipments with the support of Haitian Muslims who are stepping forward to help their neighbors.

"We have organized local Muslim community volunteers who are working with the Zakat Foundation staff," said a statement on the Zakat Foundation Web site. "They purchase supplies daily in the neighboring Dominican Republic and truck them in to their distribution points in Port-au-Prince."

One of the delivery points is St. Clare's Church in Port-au-Prince. The Zakat Foundation is making sure the church is supplied with food and water on a regular basis. The church uses the supplies to feed up to 3,000 people daily, and the Zakat Foundation supplies food directly to some 700 orphans at a camp near the church.

Deeply involved in Haitian earthquake aid efforts on the ground, both Islamic Relief USA and the

Zakat Foundation know how much more needs to be done. Both organizations are still actively raising funds and plan further humanitarian aid relief for Haiti.

The Zakat Foundation is locating more orphans and aims to open a permanent orphanage in Haiti. Meanwhile, Islamic Relief USA's personnel continue to distribute aid to the homeless in camps — and on the streets.

"Your continued support is necessary, as the victims' wounds heal and the focus shifts to long-term development," said an appeal on Islamic Relief USA's Web site.

Help save lives in Haiti: Visit the White House Web site for options ( [http://www.whitehouse.gov/haitiearthquake\\_embed](http://www.whitehouse.gov/haitiearthquake_embed) ). The International Committee of the Red Cross provides a service to help people find loved ones ( <http://www.icrc.org/web/doc/siterfl0.nsf/htmlall/familylinks-haiti-eng> ), and the State Department has a Person Finder ( <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/ha/earthquake/index.htm> ) where people can post information about persons missing in Haiti.

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## African Nations Join World Community to Help Haiti

**By Charles W. Corey**  
**Staff Writer**

**Washington** — Despite their own financial difficulties and development challenges, many African nations are joining with the international community to donate money and lifesaving or emergency support services to the earthquake-stricken people of Haiti.

Worldwide, governments have now pledged more than \$1 billion in emergency aid to Haiti, and the people of Africa are doing their part as well.

South Africa has deployed two search-and-rescue teams to Haiti and South African nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army, have launched appeals nationwide for \$4 million in emergency aid. The South African NGO "Gift of Givers" has also collected more than \$600,000 in emergency supplies for Haiti.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has announced it is sending \$2.5 million in emergency aid to help Haitian earthquake victims. DRC Information Minister Lambert Mende told the BBC, "Congo isn't bankrupt; our own problems should not prevent us from helping a brother country."

Senegal's president, Abdoulaye Wade, has offered \$1 million in aid. Gabon, the Republic of the Congo and Namibia are each pledging \$1 million in funding.

Equatorial Guinea has pledged \$2 million in emergency earthquake relief. In a written statement, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo said, "Although our two countries are separated by an ocean, Equatorial Guinea stands with the victims in Haiti in this time of distress and chaos." The funds pledged by the Equatorial Guinean government, like those of many other foreign governments, are being transmitted to Haiti with the help of the United Nations, the statement added.

Mauritius, which has pledged some \$500,000, has mobilized nationwide to help raise funds for the earthquake victims. The city council of Beau-Bassin-Rose Hill, which is the country's second-largest city, announced January 20 that a TV charity event would be held January 29 to collect donations for Haiti.

The diocese of Port-Louis, the capital of Mauritius, through the Mauritian charity Caritas, which is organizing the fundraiser, put out the call for disaster assistance.

Botswana is donating \$150,000 to the earthquake relief effort, calling the donation "a token of the friendship, goodwill and solidarity that exists between the government and people of Botswana and the government of Haiti."

Rwanda is sending \$100,000, as is Sierra Leone, while Namibia has pledged \$1 million. The Namibian

Red Cross has launched a nationwide appeal for the victims and has told the Namibian Broadcasting Company that although the government has responded to Haiti's predicament, the need is so great the public is being asked to step up and donate as well.

The government of Liberia has announced a \$50,000 donation to Haiti. An Information Ministry release detailing the donation says the relationship between Haiti and Liberia dates to the founding of the Liberian state.

In Kenya, the Red Cross has launched a joint appeal with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Benin has established bank accounts to accept donations for earthquake victims and to support the approximately 50 Haitian students studying at a university in Benin, many of whom are now cut off from financial support from their families back home. Benin has also offered to increase the number of national police it has deployed to the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and offered to send military forces to the U.N. mission there.

The list of African donor nations continues to grow day by day.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

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## Internet Freedom Essential to Human Rights, Economic Prosperity

By Jane Morse  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Internet freedom is essential to upholding human rights and encouraging economic prosperity, and the United States plans to aggressively promote Internet access for all peoples, says Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"We stand for a single Internet where all of humanity has equal access to knowledge and ideas," Clinton said in a groundbreaking foreign policy speech delivered January 21 at Washington's-Newseum ( <http://www.newseum.org/> ).

She linked the freedom to use the Internet without government obstruction to basic human rights such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. Having the freedom to connect to the Internet, she said, "is like the freedom of assembly, only in cyberspace."

Clinton compared the efforts of some governments to deny their citizens unfettered Internet access to the construction of the Berlin Wall. "Virtual walls are cropping up in place of visible walls," she said.

"Some countries have erected electronic barriers that prevent their people from accessing portions of the world's networks," Clinton said. "They have expunged words, names and phrases from search-engine results.

"They have violated the privacy of citizens who engage in nonviolent political speech. These actions contravene the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ( <http://www.america.gov/un->



*A man poses for a photo outside the Google China headquarters in Beijing on January 16.*

declaration.html ), which tells us that all people have the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

While praising the "brave citizen journalists" in Iran who have used cell-phone video to tell the world about brutal repression in their country, Clinton also noted that "free expression has its limits."

"We do not tolerate those who incite others to violence, such as the agents of al-Qaida who are at this moment using the Internet to promote the mass murder of innocent people across the world. And hate speech that targets individuals on the basis of their race, religion, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation is reprehensible," the secretary said.

The Internet, Clinton said, is a valuable tool in promoting social justice. She gave the example of an unemployed engineer in Colombia who used the Internet to bring together more than 12 million people in 190 cities around the world to demon-

strate against the FARC terrorist movement. In Mexico, a private citizen using e-mail was able to mobilize some 150,000 people to demonstrate against drug-related violence. And in India, a 13-year-old boy using online social networks was able to organize blood drives for the victims of terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

Thanks to affordable technology, there are some 4 billion cell phones being used around the world, even in the poorest sectors of society, Clinton said. "Information networks have become a great leveler," Clinton said, "and we should use them together to lift people out of poverty and give them freedom from want."

The secretary noted that when President Obama visited China in November 2009, he publicly defended the right of people to freely access information and said that the more freely information flows, the stronger societies become.

"He spoke about how access to

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## Bill Clinton to Lead U.N. Program on Jobs for Haitian Youth

By VOA News

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton has agreed to lead a U.N. program that will offer jobs to Haitian youth as part of the clean-up and recovery following last week's earthquake.

Last spring U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon asked Mr. Clinton to become his Special Envoy for Haiti. Now the former president has agreed to take on an additional role — promoting the U.N.'s jobs for cash program.

"During my recent visit to Haiti I have met many people," said Ban Ki-moon. "What they asked us — of course they need water, food, shelter, basic needs — they need a better future. They need a better future and permanent jobs — work with dignity."  
The U.N. says the jobs will include

the basics of recovery such as removing rubble from the streets. They will pay \$5 per day. With 20 work days per month, individuals will earn \$100 each month — a very decent wage in Haiti.

Mr. Clinton said he was already working on development projects in Haiti before the earthquake and that the cash for jobs program is a natural next step. "It is really important," said Bill Clinton. "The United States has a lot of experience with that in the Middle East, Afghanistan — that it is really important to give young people something positive to do. And a lot of people there want



*Former President Bill Clinton, left, with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, was serving as U.N. special envoy for Haiti.*

to be a part of rebuilding their country." On Monday, cabinet ministers from many countries will meet in Montreal, Canada at a preliminary meeting to look ahead at Haiti's medium- and longer-term reconstruction needs.

Officials warn that the road ahead will be long and expensive. The United Nations has already appealed for more than \$550 million for emergency relief over the next six months. But that figure is likely to go up and reconstruction costs will be much more.

This report was provided by VOA News (<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/>) ♦

## Internet Freedom Essential to Human Rights, Economic Prosperity . . .

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information helps citizens hold their own governments accountable, generates new ideas, encourages creativity and entrepreneurship," she said.

When asked about efforts by the Chinese government to censor and control American technology companies operating inside its borders, Clinton said the Obama administration is engaged in "very candid and constructive conversation with the Chinese government." She added: "We have had a positive year of very open discussions with our Chinese counterparts."

The Obama administration, Clinton

said, is reinvigorating the Global Internet Freedom Task Force as a forum for addressing threats to Internet freedom around the world.

"We are urging U.S. media companies to take a proactive role in challenging foreign governments' demands for censorship and surveillance. The private sector has a shared responsibility to help safeguard free expression," she said. "And when their business dealings threaten to undermine this freedom, they need to consider what's right, not simply what's a quick profit."

The Obama administration, she said, is "encouraged" by the work currently being done by the Global

Network Initiative, which is a voluntary effort by technology companies — along with nongovernmental organizations, academic experts and social-investment funds — to respond to government requests for censorship. She announced that as a part of the U.S. government commitment to support responsible private-sector engagement on information freedom, the State Department will hold a high-level meeting next month to bring together firms that provide network services for talks about Internet freedom.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦



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## Social Networking Experiment Shows Effects of Mass Mobilization

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

**Washington** — Many people who have a wide audience in social networks such as Twitter and Facebook probably have speculated about the true power of online information, wondering what its potential can be, how fast information can travel, and how quickly large groups of people can be mobilized in support of a cause.

There have been prominent examples of success, such as the One Million Voices Against the FARC ( <http://blogs.america.gov/freepress/2008/04/28/this-revolution-brought-to-you-by-facebook> ) campaign that led to protests around the world against the Colombian terrorist group in February 2008, and various commercial-sponsored treasure hunts which, for example, guided participants from their computers to random phone booths to await calls that would give them clues for completing a puzzle for a prize.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency ( <http://www.darpa.mil/> ) (DARPA), which in 1969 created the technical core of what would become the Internet, decided to put social networking to the test in a December 5 scientific experiment. The contest pitted teams against each other to see which would be the first to mobilize thousands of people to help pinpoint all the locations of 10 red balloons spread randomly across the vast continental United States. The first to find all 10 would receive a \$40,000 prize.

"We really didn't know what to expect," DARPA's Peter Lee told



*DARPA randomly placed 10 balloons across the continental United States and challenged social networking teams to locate them.*

America.gov. Given the relatively small size of the balloons and large amount of land to cover, "it seemed impossibly difficult," he said. As director of the Transformational Convergence Technology Office, Lee was in charge of the network challenge.

He said he was very surprised that the challenge was solved in just under nine hours. DARPA had actually allowed up to five days for the competition to run its course.

The winning team, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), succeeded by employing a unique online incentive structure through social network advertising that offered to pay not only those

who found the balloons, but also those who had recruited them to the campaign.

As MIT team leader Riley Crane explained December 11 on National Public Radio (NPR), "we made it effortless for people to participate, and in addition to the monetary rewards, people could really watch their direct impact at influencing others to join."

Lee said that approach encouraged anyone in the world to participate since they could notify friends and family in the United States to be on the lookout or to investigate reports of balloon sightings. He said about 250 non-American teams partici-

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## Social Networking Experiment Shows Effects of Mass Mobilization . . .

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pated in the contest, including teams from India, Iran, Sudan, Russia and various countries from South America and Asia. Those teams were able to mobilize their expatriate communities inside the United States for help, he said.

The relatively new phenomenon of strangers being connected through social networking brings a new aspect to global competition. "The principle here at work is this concept that ... we think less and less about groups in adversarial situations being defined by physical borders, but instead by ... social networks," Lee said.

DARPA's experiment tested not only the speed and effectiveness of social networking. It also added a challenging twist by allowing the teams to covertly spread misinformation to each other in hopes of producing reports of false sightings or forcing them to spend precious time chasing after them.

There were approximately 200 fake balloon reports and "really great fake photos" made using photo-editing software that were posted online as "proof," Lee said.

The top teams were able to quickly locate people in the vicinity of reported sightings to verify the validity of the reports. Lee said one of Google Corporation's teams used the company's mapping resources to locate nearby businesses or residences, called them up, and asked them to look out their windows or step outside to verify claimed sightings.

Lee also acknowledged that DARPA's invitation for teams to put their links on its Web site ( <https://networkchallenge.darpa.mil/> ) had resulted in the site getting hacked about a week before the competition had started. Some teams, he said, planted viruses that would cause infected computers to be redirected to a spoof Web site where their reports of balloon sightings would be revealed to competitors, rather than to DARPA.

"At first you think 'this is bad,' and then you think 'all is fair in war,' and then finally you think 'it would make for a cleaner competition if we actively fix that,' Lee said, so DARPA ultimately decided to remove the spoof sites.

In addition, he said some teams "found each other and started to enter into negotiations to exchange information." This created another interesting dynamic in which the competitors were negotiating often without understanding the value of their reports, given the rampant misinformation. "It was pretty intense," Lee said.

So what does this competition mean for real-world scenarios? In the short term, Lee said, disaster response comes to mind, where mass mobilization can be used to quickly locate individuals with certain knowledge, expertise or access to specialized equipment. The person or item sought need not be online. They could be found by merely locating someone with a way to reach them.

MIT's Riley Crane told NPR he could also see this type of social networking being used to rally a large number of people for other altruistic

goals, such as finding missing children.

But Lee said the experiment also revealed that social networking "has just barely penetrated our society"; there are many widespread groups across the United States, such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other associations beyond the "net savvy," that could have done well, but have little online penetration. "There is tremendous room for growth in social media," he concluded.

Lee said the first 40 years since DARPA's experiments in computer networking gave birth to the Internet have succeeded in laying its infrastructure, making it spread and increasing its accessibility.

"The next 40 years will continue to do that but I think we'll also really see this social element." DARPA, he said, "is taking that really seriously."

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

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## U.S. Agency Works to Transform the Global Energy Landscape

By Cheryl Pellerin  
Science Writer

**Washington** — The U.S. Department of Energy is using the research and development model that led directly to the Internet ( <http://www.isoc.org/internet/history/brief.shtml> ) to transform the landscape of clean energy.

ARPA-E ( <http://arpa-e.energy.gov/> ) — for Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy — was established in 2007 with \$400 million in funding. It's a bold concept: focus on high-risk, high-payoff concepts developed by small businesses, academic institutions and large corporations and turn them into technologies that promise true transformations in areas like large-scale use of energy-efficiency technology, alternative and advanced energy sources, smart-grid power management and energy-storage technology.

ARPA-E was modeled after DARPA ( <http://www.darpa.mil/> ) — the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency — created in 1958 to serve as the frontier-expanding research and development arm of the Defense Department. DARPA's involvement in creating the Internet began with an idea to link time-sharing computers into a national system, and DARPA-funded scientists have contributed to artificial intelligence, space-launch platforms, stealth technology and smart materials.

ARPA-E's new director, Arun Majumdar, was associate laboratory director for energy and environment at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory ( <http://www.lbl.gov/> ) and a professor of mechanical engineering and materials science and engineering at the University of



*ARPA-E is a new agency of the U.S. Department of Energy.*

California-Berkeley ( <http://berkeley.edu/> ). Majumdar has been an entrepreneur and has served as an adviser to startup companies and venture capital firms in the Silicon Valley ( <http://www.siliconvalley-usa.com/> ).

ARPA-E funded projects ( <http://arpa-e.energy.gov/public/PR-102609.pdf> ) (PDF, 100KB) cover a wide range of activities, including the following:

Liquid metal grid-scale batteries: Created by professor Don Sadoway ( <http://dmse.mit.edu/faculty/faculty/dsadoway/> ), a leading Massachusetts Institute of Technology battery scientist, the all-liquid metal

battery ( <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2009/liquid-battery.html> ) is based on low-cost liquid metals with potential to break through the cost barrier required for mass adoption of large-scale energy storage as part of the nation's energy grid. This technology could revolutionize the way electricity is used and produced on the grid, enabling round-the-clock power from wind and solar power resources, increasing the grid's stability and making blackouts a thing of the past. Bacteria for producing direct solar hydrocarbon biofuels: Researchers at the University of Minnesota ( <http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/index.php> ) developed a

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Telling America's story

**U.S. to Have Strong Civilian Presence . . .**

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brooke, says there will be a significant increase in civilian experts to accompany the increased civilian assistance. The number of U.S. civilians in Afghanistan will be tripled from 320 to nearly 1,000 by early 2010. They will come from a broad range of U.S. government agencies including Agriculture, Justice, the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Treasury and Homeland Security.

**PAKISTAN ASSISTANCE**

Coupled with the enhanced security effort in Afghanistan is additional assistance for Pakistan that includes the Kerry-Lugar-Berman legislation, which authorized \$7.5 billion in U.S. nonmilitary assistance over five years.

Part of the focus in Pakistan is in helping address immediate needs for energy, water and related economic crises; supporting broader economic and democratic reforms; and helping Pakistan build on its ability to eliminate insurgent sanctuaries that threaten the country and the region, according to the strategy.

The United States is taking this "whole-of-government strategy" to protect its vital interests in the region, Clinton said.

"We have no illusions about the challenges ahead of us," she added. "The Afghan and Pakistani governments have endorsed this strategy and are committed to achieving our shared objectives."

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**U.S. Agency Works to Transform the Global Energy Landscape. . .**

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bioreactor that potentially can produce a flow of gasoline directly from sunlight and carbon dioxide using a symbiotic system of two organisms. First, a photosynthetic organism directly captures solar radiation and uses it to convert carbon dioxide to sugars. In the same area, another organism converts the sugars to gasoline and diesel transportation fuels.

CO2 capture using artificial enzymes: United Technologies Research Center ( [http://www.utrc.utc.com/pages/our\\_company.html](http://www.utrc.utc.com/pages/our_company.html) ) is developing synthetic enzymes that could make it easier and cheaper to capture CO2 emissions from power plants and factories. The effort would mean a lower energy requirement for industrial carbon di-

oxide capture and much lower capital costs to get carbon-capture systems up and running. The project could make it affordable to capture carbon dioxide from coal and natural gas power plants around the world.

Low-cost crystals for LED (light-emitting diode lighting: Developed by Momentive Performance Materials ( <http://www.momentive.com/portal/site/Internet> ), this proposal for novel crystal-growth technology could dramatically lower the cost of developing LEDs, which are 30 times more efficient than incandescent bulbs and four times more efficient than compact fluorescents. This higher-quality, low-cost material would lower costs of finished LED lighting, accelerate mass-market use and dramatically decrease lighting energy use, which accounts for 14 percent of U.S. electricity use.

Water: Carbon nanotubes ( <http://www.pa.msu.edu/cmp/csc/nanotube.html> ) for reverse-osmosis membranes that require less energy and have many times higher processing speed. This could dramatically reduce the cost and energy required for desalination (turning saltwater to freshwater) to supply water for crops and communities.

What do you think about ARPA-E and what are your ideas for amazing new clean-energy technologies?

Add your comments below, and learn more on our Facebook ( <http://www.facebook.com/ConversationsClimate> ) page. ♦

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